

D.C. ELECTION RESULTS OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT TO GAYS

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The returns from the D.C. elections on November 5 provide a solid ground for optimism among gay residents of the Nation's Capital.

10 of the 13 persons elected to the new D.C. City Council have publicly indicated they will support various reforms intended to end long-standing patterns of official neglect and abuse. These 10 returned questionnaires covering 13 gay-related issues to the Gay Activists Alliance during the campaign. None of these 10 scored lower than 5½ points out of a possible 7 points awarded to candidates by GAA on the basis of questionnaire responses, and 3 --Marion Barry, Jr. (At-Large), Dave Clarke (Ward 1), and Arrington Dixon (Ward 4) -- handed in perfect questionnaires.

Moreover, the only two candidates who were openly hostile to gay interests -- Albert Rosenfield (Ward 3) and Henry Robinson (Ward 5) -- were decisively rejected at the polls. Both are Republicans. However, another Republican, Jerry Moore, Jr., a member of the current appointed City Council, was elected to an At-Large seat with the highest overall rating of all the candidates (9½ points out of a possible 10).

Democrat Douglas Moore, elected to an At-Large position, was quite notorious in the past for his anti-gay attacks. However, campaign manager Phil Watson transformed him on this and apparently many other issues, and it seems unlikely that Doug Moore would now be able to revert to his former errant ways.

Of the 3 elected City Council members who did not return the GAA questionnaires, long-time activist Julius Hobson, elected At-Large from the Statehood party, will undoubtedly be the most influential. Gays can hope that some of Mr. Hobson's energy and idealism previously devoted to civil rights and civil liberties concerns will now be forthcoming on behalf of gay citizens.

As expected, Mayor Walter Washington won easily over a variety of little-known candidates. In spite of numerous attempts by GAA to get the Mayor to answer his questionnaire and in spite of public pledges by the Mayor's campaign staff ~~that all~~ ^{submitted by all groups} questionnaires would be completed, Mr. Washington never did return the GAA form. However, at the end of the campaign he finally promised to meet with representatives of the Alliance to discuss the issues. (See separate story.)

The results of the D.C. School Board elections also were rather encouraging for gay Washingtonians. Elizabeth Kane, who was given a rating of 9½ points, triumphed over five opponents in the race to fill the At-Large School Board seat vacated by Marion Barry, while Carol Schwartz (8½ points) was elected to the seat left open when Rosenfield resigned to make his unsuccessful City Council race. However, victorious candidates in wards 5 and 6 did not return the GAA questionnaire submitted to all School Board candidates.